

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
OF AMERICA  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 3398  
LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO 87031

President: Rodney Woods / [Rwoods@fuse.net](mailto:Rwoods@fuse.net)  
<http://middleriogrande.bchnm.org> takes you directly to our site.  
<http://www.bchnm.org> takes you to the State Chapter home page



**March 2011**

**Chapter Notes**

The weather is finally breaking and it's getting nice enough to ride. We've got some training rides and a work project coming up, so check out the calendar.

Happy Trails

CALENDAR		
Sat, 5 Mar	Training Ride – Paula 407-697-8229 San Lorenzo Canyon Loop	10AM
Thur, 17 Mar	March business meeting Bosque Farms Community Center.	6:30 PM
Sun, 3 Apr	Training Ride – Paula 407-697-8229	TBD
Sat, 9 Apr	Work Project – Priest Canyon	TBD
Aug 26-28, 2011	BCHNM Rendezvous. RE-SCHEDULED! Plan for it now.	

**March Meeting – New Start Time**

The members decided to move the meeting start time up to 6:30 to accommodate participation by more of the members. We'll send out a reminder the day before. Also, we got a start on planning for the coming year, but there is more to do. Come to the meeting and present your ideas. We'll also be finalizing the details of the April ride and project.

**March Training Ride**

Diane Wiltshire of the Socorro Chapter will be leading us on an easy ride over the Lorenzo Canyon Loop. The weather is supposed to be fine, and it's one of our favorites. Paula is the trail boss, so call her to RSVP and for directions – 407-697-8229. Some of the riders will rendezvous at the Kiva RV Park at 9 AM, so let Paula know if you plan on meeting there first. Bring a lunch and enjoy the day.

### **April Training Ride**

Some of the members joined the Pecos chapter on a training ride in the Four Hills/Tijeras Canyon area, and Paula suggested we try it on Sunday 3 April. Details are still TBD, so come to the meeting to get the specifics.

### **April Work Project**

Priest Canyon is our annual "Adopt a Trail" work project for the Mountaineer Ranger District. It's a chance for an easy ride and to clean up a nice trail. Details on Trail Boss and times will be finalized at the March meeting.

### **That Time of Year – Time to Pay Dues**

It's still not too late to renew your membership - \$25 for singles and \$35 for families. This includes your BCHA State and National dues and your subscription to the BCHA Newsletter. Bring your dues to the meeting or mail it to PO Box 3398, Los Lunas, NM 87031.

### **Rendezvous Re-scheduled**

Don't forget – the Rendezvous has been rescheduled to 26-28 Aug to miss the start of bow hunting season. Our own Roger Leopold will be making a Dutch oven dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday – with a lot of help. Mark your calendar.

### **Country Supply Connection**

BCHA gets a "commission" if you order from Country Supply ([www.horse.com](http://www.horse.com)) through their site. Go to the BCHA home page (<http://www.backcountryhorse.com>) and link to horse.com (or the other affiliated websites) and raise some funds for the cause.

## **February Business Meeting Minutes**

9 Members present

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Rodney Woods, Pres.

Treasurer's Report: \$2071.85 with \$38 expenditures (State chapters dues for 2 members) and +\$286.

No meeting minutes from last meeting as it was not a business meeting. Cheryl Nigg gave packing demo

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Ride rules/guidelines proposed from state BCH meeting were emailed to all by Rick. Should we recommend adopting these?

Next state meeting is 3/26 @ Kiva RV Park, Bernardo.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion re: meeting starting time. New starting time will be at 6:30pm, next meeting at Bosque Farms. April 21 meeting at Fat Sat's in Belen, 6pm dinner, 7pm meeting.

Discussion concerning renewal of our chapter's support of the organization Leave No Trace. It was voted upon to support this organization with a \$100 membership. We will use the materials from this membership for the chapter. JoAnn Van Der Geest is the certified Leave No Trace trainer.

Discussion concerning renewal of our chapter's support of the NM Horse Council @ \$30, was passed.

**NEWS FROM OSCAR SIMPSON:**

Legislative actions are occurring NOW and we all need to be on our toes and alert to potential upheavals. Oscar will be our eyes/ears.

The Forest Service is considering its Nationwide Forest Service Plan which affects most of us. There most likely will be NO monies for the Forest Service which most likely will translate into closures. Meetings on this issue are upcoming and we will need to be included/educated. This will be a revision to the 1982 rules. A motion was passed that we support and become educated on this issue with Oscar being our point of contact for the NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE PLANNING RULE. Thank you Oscar for all you do.

**Announcements:**

Annual BCH Rendezvous date has been changed to: last weekend of August (27) and will be held in Resumadero, north of Cuba.

Pecos Chapter packing clinic 2/27, on the basics with Richard Kingsbury in Edgewood at 0900. Need to RSVP, lunch provided.

3/19 Pecos BCH chapter will hold a BCH 101 Trial Course with a high lining station. This is for new members only or one can observe. One person from our chapter will attend so that they can become a trainer for us (Rodney)

Wilderness First Aid training course down south (Alamagordo) \$125, 3/25 and 26. Oscar has details

**PLANNING FOR 2011:**

Annual Priest Canyon cleanup work ride is April 9 around 10am. We've done this for 5 yrs. This area is located south end of Manzanos on the way to Mountainare, easy arroyo ride picking up cans/trash. WE NEED A TRAIL BOSS/LEADER FOR THIS RIDE.

Continental Divide Pelona Mountain, end of July, overnight. Rick to coordinate.

March 5, 10AM Paula will ask Diane Wiltshire to lead a San Lorenzo Canyon ride

October Michelle to lead a Bosque ride/Los Lunas

April 3 Ride in Four Hills area near Tijeras Canyon

POTENTIAL exciting work projects via Oscar include:

Carson Nat Forest near Taos ski area. There is a proposed wilderness area that needs work project help. Will be weekend/overnight. Oscar will coordinate for the summer.

Road inventory project in the Gila Nat Forest (huge project). Need GPS training, forest service to project equipment to map out roads.

Donna will investigate having our own Wilderness First Aid course here as there is interest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Ketcheson



The Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the BCHA is a Non-profit partner with the Leave No Trace (LNT) Foundation and supports the seven principals of LNT.